

ROBIN PERKINS NAMED WOMAN OF THE YEAR BY THE GREATER MANASSAS CHRISTMAS PARADE COMMITTEE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Robin Perkins on being named Woman of the Year by the Greater Manassas Christmas Parade Committee. Mrs. Perkins has diligently served the Manassas community for many years and is more than deserving of this honor.

A lifelong resident of Manassas and devoted community leader, Mrs. Perkins has served her hometown for 33 years in the City of Manassas treasurer's office. After fifteen years of service in that office, she was elected to serve as Treasurer for the City of Manassas. Now, after over eighteen years of service as Treasurer, Mrs. Perkins is entering into a well-deserved retirement.

Though she is leaving her post as Treasurer, Mrs. Perkins will remain a fixture of the Manassas community. She serves as a scout leader, a youth bowling director, and has been a long-time volunteer with the city schools. Her lifelong dedication to her community is an inspiration and I'm proud to represent such a wonderful woman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Robin Perkins for being named Woman of the Year by the Greater Manassas Christmas Parade Committee. It is a privilege to represent her and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEBRA SAUNDERS-WHITE

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of one of our nation's finest public servants, Dr. Debra Saunders-White. She was a good friend and a tireless advocate for increasing access to higher education for all students. This past Saturday, Debra Saunders-White passed away, and I would like to take a brief moment to celebrate her life and legacy.

For many years, Debra Saunders-White was a leading voice in education as she fought to strengthen historical black colleges and universities and other minority serving institutions. As a first generation college graduate, Debra understood both the opportunities afforded by higher education and the many challenges that accompany students as they attempt to access and afford a higher education.

A native of Hampton, Virginia, she attended the University of Virginia before receiving her Masters of Business Administration from the College of William and Mary and her Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from George Washington University. After completing her education, Mrs. Saunders-White

spent 15 years in the private sector, working for IBM as a systems engineer before transitioning to marketing.

From 1999 until 2006, Dr. Saunders-White served as the Assistant Provost of Technology at Hampton University. While at Hampton, she designed and implemented the university's first information technology organization. Her efforts made Hampton University the first HBCU in the nation to join the Internet2 community, where they earned the "most wired university" title by Forbes Magazine and the Princeton Review.

Ultimately, Dr. Saunders-White left Hampton University and spent some time at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) as the Vice Chancellor and later served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Department of Education in President Obama's administration. In 2011, Mrs. Saunders-White became the 11th chancellor of North Carolina Central University. During her tenure, Dr. Saunders-White was held in high regard by all of her colleagues and students. Known for her strong vision and leadership, Debra was extremely dedicated to ensuring the success of the students at NCCU while she carried out her vision for growth at the university.

Mr. Speaker, the education and NCCU communities have lost a tremendous advocate for our nation's students. I want to extend my deepest sympathies to her two children, Elizabeth Paige and Cecil III; her mother, Irene Saunders; her brothers, Roger, Ralph and Kyle Saunders, and the rest of her family, friends, and countless students she positively impacted during her life.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR DR. DEBRA SAUNDERS-WHITE

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Dr. Debra Saunders-White, a dear friend, nationally recognized academic, and the eleventh Chancellor of North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Saunders-White transitioned to her heavenly home on Saturday, November 26, 2016 after a courageous battle with cancer. She will be greatly missed by the entire NCCU family and all who knew her.

Dr. Saunders-White was born in Hampton, Virginia on January 8, 1957. As a first-generation college student, she received her undergraduate training at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Graduating in the Class of 1979 with a Bachelor's degree in history, Dr. Saunders-White went on to receive a Master's of Business Administration from the College of William and Mary (in 1993) and a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from George Washington University (in 2004).

The massive outpouring of accolades that arose upon Dr. Saunders-White's passing speaks to her character and abilities. She was installed as the eleventh chancellor of my

alma mater, North Carolina Central University, on June 1, 2013. And, I might add, she became the first permanent woman chancellor in the University's 106-year history.

Prior to assuming her duties at NCCU, she served as the acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Postsecondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education in the Obama Administration under Secretary Arne Duncan. Dr. Saunders-White joined the Department of Education in May of 2011 as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for higher education programs.

Throughout her tenure as NCCU's Chancellor, Dr. Saunders-White made many important contributions to the University, including increasing the freshman-to-sophomore retention rate from 69 percent to 80 percent; growing faculty and staff annual giving from 19 percent to 76 percent; creating the Triangle area's first dual-enrollment, residential transfer program known as Eagle Connect, in conjunction with Durham Technical Community College; and opening a Fabrication Laboratory in 2015 that is part of a select number of such laboratories at HBCUs.

Always committed to uplifting Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Dr. Saunders-White was named a "cyber star" by Black Issues in Higher Education and has published articles and whitepapers on the role of technology in learning. At NCCU, she was instrumental in raising scholarship funds for students and prioritized innovative academic instruction to prepare students of color to be competitive in the global marketplace.

Beyond her academic contributions, what is more illuminating of Dr. Saunders-White's stellar character was the way she connected with students at the university. She took a personal interest in the scholarship and mentorship program by encouraging "Eagle Excellence" that went beyond success in the classroom. Her dedication to scholarship and preserving the legacy of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities earned her the respect and admiration of students and colleagues alike.

It is dedicated leaders like Dr. Debra Saunders-White whose passionate commitment to helping all students succeed will leave a lasting mark on the future of our students and our country. NCCU (and all of those connected with institutions of higher learning) have lost a great educator and friend. Mr. Speaker, the Nation has lost a great educator.

Dr. Saunders-White is survived by two children, Elizabeth Paige White and Cecil White, III; her mother, Mrs. Irene Saunders; and her brothers, Roger, Ralph, and Kyle. I hope the outpouring of love shared by the community has been a comfort to Dr. Saunders-White's family.

Today, we remember Dr. Debra Saunders-White and reflect on her motto 'Eagle Excellence.' That motto, which Dr. Saunders-White embodied in her work each day, will remain embedded in the fabric of the University for generations to come.

This is indeed a solemn occasion. But it's also an occasion to celebrate. Dr. Saunders-White fought the good fight, kept the faith, and was a friend to so many and we are all thankful that she was able to touch so many lives. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life, work, and legacy of Chancellor Debra Saunders-White.